

Statement of Work for Student Services Contract
Ecological Exposure Research Division
Molecular Ecology Research Branch
Cincinnati, OH

1. Project Description:

The Molecular Ecology Research Branch, Genetics Research Group, is responsible for developing genetics-based indicators of ecological condition and to characterize exposure and impacts of different environmental stressors. Invasive species is a biological stressor that the Genetics Research Group is beginning to characterize through several independent projects. The invasion biology projects now underway involve a range of perspectives and tasks, including but not limited to the development of molecular tools for targeting screening of invasive species in aggregate ballast samples and characterizing the behavioral component of hybridization between invasive *Cyprinella lutrensis* populations and other *Cyprinella* species endemic to Southeastern rivers.

2. Description of Student Services:

The student contractor shall work within a multi-disciplinary research team, but will be directly mentored by Dr. Michael Blum, a principle investigator (PI) of the Genetics Research Group invasion biology research projects. The student contractor shall also interact and work closely with USGS researchers located at the USGS Florida Integrated Science Center in Gainesville, Florida. The student contractor shall provide technical laboratory and/or field support for research projects focusing on the behavioral genetics of hybridization between *Cyprinella lutrensis* and other *Cyprinella* species endemic to Southeastern rivers.

Specific duties shall support and assist the PI with all tasks involved with behavioral genetic data organization and collection. The different tasks include, but are not limited to: (1) maintaining fish aquacultures (2) preparing and maintaining experimental tank systems (3) conducting behavioral trials (4) scoring video playbacks of behavioral trials (5) data entry and organization (6) preliminary analyses of behavioral data (5) other general laboratory and field duties necessary to carry out research (ie. sample collection and transport, routine equipment maintenance).

The student contractor will perform duties, as requested, according to specifications and instructions provided by their mentor. Where appropriate, the student shall maintain careful and accurate records in designated laboratory notebooks. These notebooks, and all other data produced under this order will be the property of the Environmental Protection Agency.

3. Required Expertise, Skills, Education and/or Experience:

The student contractor shall be expected to have basic understanding and training in biology, or a related field or sub-discipline such as Genetics, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Environmental Sciences, Zoology or Botany. It is preferred, but not mandatory, that the student contractor has

prior experience and training in behavioral ecology or behavioral genetics research similar to the research being conducted by the Genetics Research Group. If the student contractor does not have such specific training, the student contractor will be expected to undergo a training period (supervised and undertaken with their mentor) to develop these skills.

4. Required Background Investigation and Suitability Determination:

Student contractors under contract are required to undergo a background check and check of FBI fingerprint files and a suitability determination by the Environmental Protection Agency. Student contractors awarded a contract will have to complete a Standard Form 85 (SF-85) "Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions" and SF-87 "Fingerprint Charts". All completed forms will be submitted to the ORD. Fingerprints will either be taken at the ORD duty station (upon reporting to work) or student contractors will be notified to have their fingerprints taken at their local police department. If a background check reveals information that indicates the student represents a risk to the interests of the EPA and national security, the contract may be terminated.

5. Description of Working Conditions:

Work will be performed in a laboratory and field setting. Student contractors will be required to wear safety apparel and to closely observe safety requirements.

6. Duration and Compensation:

The contract will be for one year. The contract is for one part-time student (25-30 hours/week). The rate of compensation for this position is set at \$11.36 per hour, and will include the cost of self-employment taxes for social security and Medicare.

7. Taxes.

The student contractor is responsible for paying all Federal, State and local income taxes required as a result of income received under this order.

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